

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Department of Agriculture		2018	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers		5143	
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	08/29/2017	08/29/2019	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>	
No			
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Statutory (Congress Created)			
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
7 USC 1929	10/28/1992	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b> National Policy Issue Advisory Board			
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this Fiscal Year		
<b>17a. Open</b> 1	<b>17b. Closed</b> 0	<b>17c. Partially Closed</b> 0	<b>Other Activities</b> 0
<b>17d. Total</b> 1			

### Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
During this public meeting, the BFRAC will deliberate upon matters focused on, including but not limited to, the following: (1) Marketplace; (2) Monitoring and Evaluation; (3) Partnerships; and (4) Veteran farmers and ranchers. From these topics the BFRAC will deliberate and form its final set of recommendations for the current term. The BFRAC specifically seeks to engage and hear directly from a broad cross-section of beginning farmers, particularly from those farmers and ranchers in Florida (and neighboring states) on their experiences, pathways, and challenges as they entered into farming or ranching. We will want to hear about what was helpful, successful pathways, and barriers of entry or other challenges. We encourage all from the region to attend, including those from organizations who support farmers and ranchers—seeking a large cross-section of farm type or farm size, geographic and ethnic diversity, and supporting organizations.	04/03/2018	04/05/2018

### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$25,955.00	\$20,000.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$14,905.59	\$25,000.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$4,710.00	\$6,000.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$9,425.02	\$29,000.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$54,995.61	\$80,000.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.18	0.18

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee accomplishes its purpose by meeting to discuss and gather information on Federal, State and local beginning farmer programs to prepare for a set of recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture on ways to increase assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee consist of 20 members. The membership consists of a diverse group of individuals with experience in farming or in providing assistance to farmers. They include representatives from State and private nonprofit beginning farmer programs, commercial lending and agricultural education institutions, USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency, and several farmers.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Committee may meet publicly up to 4 times per year; and twice administratively to finalize recommendations. Funding and Agency determination whether meetings are necessary and held at the discretion of the Department.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Committee is statutory and is mandated by Congress to advise the Secretary on ways to encourage Federal and State beginning farmer programs to provide joint financing to qualified farmers and ranchers, methods of maximizing the number of new farming and ranching opportunities created through the programs, and other methods of creating new farming and ranching opportunities. The Committee was established because of Congressional concern over the average age of farmers in this country, and the need to create more opportunities for beginning farmers, thereby assuring a new generation of family farmers. The law required the Secretary to appoint members to assure the Committee consisted of members with a wide-range of knowledge.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

N/A

## 21. Remarks

The Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee is a vitally important group for the Department's policy development in support of new farmers and ranchers.

### Designated Federal Officer

Kenya B. Nicholas DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Benton, Rhonda	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Ranch Owner	Representative Member
Best, Emily	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Farmer/Rancher	Representative Member
Booker, J.D.	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Farm Owner	Representative Member
Chiang, Steven	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Director, Agribusiness Incubator Program	Representative Member
Danner, Katherine	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Vice President Longley Farms	Representative Member
Faison, Michael	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Founder of Milton's meat company	Representative Member
Frosini, Guido	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Farm Owner/Operator	Representative Member
Hafer, James	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hanson, David	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Farm Owner/Operator	Representative Member
Plyler, Caleb	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Farm Owner/Operator	Representative Member
Spaulding, Thomas	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Association President	Representative Member
Takele, Etaferahu	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	County Director of Cooperative Extension Program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thao, Chukou	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Non-Profit Organization Executive Director	Representative Member
Zamora, Javier	04/20/2016	04/19/2018	Owner JSM Organics	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 14**

### Narrative Description

USDA's mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development and related issues based on sound policy, the best available science, and efficient management. Two of its six strategic goals are (1) to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies, and (2) protect and enhance the nation's natural resource base and environment. One of the performance measures under the first goal is to increase the percentage of loans made to beginning farmers, racial and ethnic minority farmers, and women farmers financed by USDA. Over the years, many of the Committee's recommendations concerning beginning farmers and ranchers have been targeted towards the Farm Service Agency's farm loan programs and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation programs.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

The Committee's contributions regarding the overall effectiveness of Department program is clear. Impact on costs of the Department's operations may not be quantifiable.

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

258

### Number of Recommendations Comments

There were 20 new recommendations for FY2018. Total recommendations from this committee total 258 for the life of the committee. The number of recommendations that both the Committee (204 recommendations) and its Subcommittee (54 recommendations - categorized under 22 different topics) have submitted to date is 258. .

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

20%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

A review of recommendations is currently underway.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

20%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

A review of recommendations is currently underway.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

The Agency provides feedback via e-mail, letters, phone calls, and during the annual meeting.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A